



PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Paul Lucas, et al.
Serial No: 10/673,989
Filing Date: September 29, 2003
Title: VALVE ASSEMBLY HAVING IMPROVED CONDUCTANCE CONTROL
Docket No: 56231-434 (MKS-135)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail under 37 CFR 1.8(a) in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop DD, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Date: 11/16/03



JIN ZHANG

Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

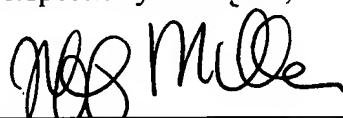
Applicant encloses herewith for filing in connection with the above-referenced patent application the following documents:

- 1) Information Disclosure Statement;
- 2) Form 1449;
- 3) Cited References; and
- 4) Acknowledgment Postcard.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this disclosure. However, please charge any necessary fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1133.

Date: 11-5-03

Respectfully submitted,



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Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit an information disclosure statement with information cited on the attached form PTO-1449. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), full copies of the cited references are enclosed.

This Statement is being filed within three months after the filing date of the application.

This statement is not to be interpreted as a representation that the cited publications are material, that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any publication herein be construed *per se* as a representation that such publication is prior art. Moreover, the Applicant understands that the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited publications.

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Subst. Form PTO-1449			Docket Number (Optional) 56231-434 (MKS-135)		Application Number 10/673,989		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION			Applicant Paul Lucas, et al.				
(Use several sheets if necessary)			Filing Date 09/29/2003		Group Art Unit		
U. S. Patent Documents							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,577,707	11/26/1996	Brida			
		6,089,537	07/18/2000	Olmsted			
		6,161,576	12/19/2000	Maher, et al.			
		6,328,051	12/11/2001	Maher			
		6,409,149	06/25/2002	Maher			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy with next communication to applicant.							